

**Yeltsin wants Gorbachev to quit**

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris N. Yeltsin made a nationally televised appeal Tuesday for the resignation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, accusing him of sacrificing reforms in a drive for personal power and dictatorship. The attack, the sharpest by the president of the Russian Republic in months, seemed certain to exacerbate the personal enmity between the two men and rekindle the Soviet political crisis. "I warned in 1987 that Gorbachev has in his character a tendency to absolute personal power," said Mr. Yeltsin. "He has done all that and has led the country to a dictatorship, giving it a pretty name: presidential rule." Mr. Yeltsin said that his biggest mistake since becoming president of the Russian Federation parliament in May 1990 was placing too much trust in Mr. Gorbachev's promises of economic and political reform. The heart of Mr. Yeltsin's argument was that power should be shifted from the central government, led by Mr. Gorbachev, in the 15 Soviet republics. Mr. Yeltsin is president of the parliament of the Russian Federation, which includes more than half of the Soviet population and most of its natural resources.

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**Iran appeals to allies for time**

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani appealed to U.S.-led allies Tuesday to delay a ground offensive so Iraq could be persuaded to quit Kuwait through diplomatic efforts. The appeal, relayed through Turkish President Turgut Ozal, was reported just after U.S. President George Bush appeared to dismiss an 11th hour Soviet peace plan as inadequate — making a ground war increasingly likely. "With regards to hopes that have appeared for ending the war, all-out efforts should be made to materialize Iraq's proposal for pullout of its forces from Kuwait," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling Mr. Ozal by telephone. "He also expressed hope that the Turkish president would do all within his power to encourage the U.S.-led forces to show self-restraint regarding their intended ground offensive so that Baghdad could be persuaded to take practical steps," it said.

## Moscow rejects Bush reaction to peace plan

### Soviets state firm stand against allied ground assault

Combined agency dispatches

SOVIET FOREIGN Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh Tuesday dismissed U.S. president George Bush's approach to a Kremlin plan to end the Gulf war.

"That plan was addressed to the Iraqi leadership, so he rejected the plan which did not belong to him," Mr. Bessmertnykh told reporters.

Mr. Bush said Tuesday the plan "falls well short of what would be required." He said he had talked to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev about the proposal "and I've been frank with him."

British Prime Minister John Major also said Tuesday that he saw nothing in the peace plan that warranted a ceasefire or pause in the Gulf war.

Mr. Bessmertnykh said he did not consider Mr. Bush's reaction to the plan to be rejection. The foreign minister made the remarks to reporters after speaking to the Supreme Soviet legislature about the Gorbachev peace offer. He refused to disclose the points of the plan.

The proposal was presented to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein through his foreign minister, Tareq Aziz. Mr. Bessmertnykh said, Mr. Aziz was expected to return to Moscow with Iran's response as soon as Wednesday, Mr. Bessmertnykh added.

Mr. Bessmertnykh said an allied ground offensive would "tremendously complicate" the Soviet-led peace process, if it occurred before the Kremlin received a response from Baghdad.

A U.S. military official in Washington said that a ground attack could begin at any time.

In his speech to lawmakers, Mr. Bessmertnykh said the situation was "too delicate" to reveal the contents of the plan to them.

Mr. Gorbachev gave the secret peace plan to Mr. Aziz Monday during a 3½-hour Kremlin meeting.

Offering an initial chilly reaction to the Soviet proposal while he posed for photographs at the start of a meeting with congressional leaders, Mr. Bush said he was "not going to give" in talk on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

The president said he had told Gorbachev of his views, adding: "Very candidly... and I've been frank with him on this, while expressing appreciation for his sending it (the Soviet peace proposal) to us, it falls well short of what would be required."

"I would leave it right there for now," Mr. Bush said, declining to

answer questions from reporters.

He glanced down at notes as he spoke, suggesting he had anticipated this question and had a reply couched in the language he wanted.

Emerging from the meeting with Mr. Bush, House of Representatives Speaker Thomas Foley, a Washington Democrat, said Mr. Bush did not elaborate on the specific nature of his objections during his discussions with congressional leaders.

Mr. Foley said Mr. Bush merely indicated that "there were some aspects that fell short."

But representative John Murtha, a Pennsylvania Democrat, said he thought Mr. Bush was cool to the Soviet proposal because he did not want allied forces to lose momentum in their war effort.

"I don't think he's dismissing it, I think he's being very cautious," said Mr. Murtha, who just returned from a visit to U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia.

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That opened the way for Mr. Gorbachev's initiative.

"President Gorbachev asked that I keep the details of it confidential and I'm going to do that," Mr. Bush said to his first personal public comment on the proposal. "I will respect that request in the interest of thoroughly exploring the initiative."

Mr. Bush insisted there would be no negotiations on the demand, endorsed

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### Israel reports missile attack

TEL AVIV (AP) — A single missile fired from western Iraq struck in Israel Tuesday, but apparently caused no casualties, the army said.

Chief army spokesman Nachman Shai gave no details on where the missile hit. "So far we have no reports of injuries or damage," he said.

Reporters in Tel Aviv said they heard sounds indicating at least two U.S.-supplied Patriot air-defence missiles were fired. They also heard a third explosion that could not immediately identify.

Brigadier General Shai would not comment on whether patriots were fired under standing army policy.

Warning sirens sounded throughout Israel at 7:55 p.m. (1755 GMT), indicating a possible Iraqi missile attack. Israelis are ordered to don gas masks and enter sealed rooms during the alerts because of Iraqi threats to use chemical weapons.

Most regions of the country were quickly freed from the alert, indicating there was no sign of a chemical warhead. The last area freed was central Israel and parts of the occupied West Bank.

The Soviet proposal put Mr. Bush in a delicate position by forcing him to avoid an appearance of rushing into a battle when a diplomatic option was available.

But he also had to balance military and strategic concerns. Some military experts have voiced worry that any unnecessary delay could cause the coalition troops, which have been streaming north towards the Saudi-Kuwaiti border in recent days, to lose their combat edge.

Last Friday Mr. Bush rejected an Iraqi ceasefire proposal on grounds it contained unacceptable conditions.

All of the attacks have involved conventional warheads.

Two people have been killed and 230 wounded in the previous attacks. An additional 11 deaths were blamed on heart attacks or misuse of gas masks. More than 10,000 apartments have been damaged or destroyed.

The last attack, involving two Scuds, was Saturday. Both landed without causing damage or casualties.

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**'SOUVENIR':** Jordanians arriving from Iraq across the border display a missile part they picked up on their way to Baghdad to the border (photo by Yousef Al 'Aflaq)

### Soviet plan said to contain six points

Combined agency dispatches

THE SOVIET UNION'S proposed peace plan to avert a ground war in the Gulf calls for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait in return for certain international undertakings and the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force between Iraq and Kuwait, reports said Tuesday.

According to Radio Monte Carlo, following are the six points of the peace proposal as submitted by the Soviet leadership to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz:

— An Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions;

— Cancellation of all sanctions imposed on Iraq and providing guarantees by the world community to refrain from boycotting Iraq following its withdrawal from Kuwait;

— Withdrawal of allied forces and liquidation of foreign bases in the region;

— Guarantees for Iraq's essential role in formulating a regional security system;

— Commencement of a process aimed at resolving the region's other issues which foremost include the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab lands through a U.N.-sponsored international conference; and

— International contribution towards the reconstruction of Iraq's civilian installations and solutions for Iraqi debt problems.

Italian Rai television said that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal, whose details have not been made public, called for Iraq to announce its unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

A ceasefire would follow to allow both the Iraqi pullout and the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces on the frontier between Kuwait and Iraq. The area would remain under U.N. supervision after the war's end, the television report said the plan envisaged.

With the U.N. force in place, the multinational coalition would also remove its forces from the region.

The end of hostilities would be followed by the removal of the U.N.'s economic sanctions on Iraq and talks would begin among Middle Eastern states towards the settlement of regional issues, the broadcast said.

On Monday, the German newspaper Bild said the Soviet plan contained several similar proposals, but made no mention of a U.N. peace-keeping role. Instead, it said the plan called for the Soviet Union to support maintaining Iraq's state structure and borders.

A Soviet spokesman later told British television that the Bild report "more or less" reflected the plan.

### Israel eases curfew for schools, but demolishes homes

— The Israeli army allowed young children to return to school in parts of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Tuesday for the first time in the Gulf war. But curfews still kept Palestinians in their homes in widespread areas.

In the Gaza Strip, soldiers demolished two homes to punish Palestinians suspected of anti-Israeli activities. Arab reporters said three houses of Palestinians were sealed shut in the West Bank city of Nablus.

A general strike shut down Bethlehem and the nearby villages of Beit Sahour and Beit Jala as Palestinians mourned the shooting death of a 14-year-old boy Monday night.

However, the school reopening policy was extended only to farm villages in the Gaza Strip, and Palestinians in many refugee

### Aziz returns home after telling Iranians of serious peace move

Combined agency dispatches

FOREIGN MINISTER Tareq Aziz returned home by road from Iran Tuesday, carrying a Soviet proposal which Moscow hoped would fend off all-out ground war in the Gulf.

The U.S.-led allied war against Iraq showed no sign of pausing while the diplomacy unfolded. Warplanes repeatedly bombed Baghdad late Monday and early Tuesday in the heaviest onslaught on the capital in several days.

Mr. Aziz flew from the Iranian capital Tehran, to the western province of Bakhtaran, in an Iranian jetliner. From there, he travelled overland to Baghdad, 275 kilometres away, sources said.

But as President Saddam Hussein awaited Mr. Aziz's arrival to discuss the proposal with his aides and give his final response, President George Bush announced in Washington that the Soviet plan "falls well short of what would be required" to end the war.

"As far as I'm concerned, there are no negotiations, no concessions," Mr. Bush said.

Details of the plan have not been disclosed. But the U.S. stance dampened hopes that it would lead to peace.

There were strong indications that Baghdad would respond positively to the initiative. In Moscow, officials said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was hopeful that President Saddam would accept the plan, which the Soviet leader handed to Mr. Aziz during a Kremlin meeting Monday.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who met with Mr. Aziz before the latter's departure for Baghdad, "ex-

### 'Soviet military team in Iraq'

The Palestinian news agency WAFA said in a report from Baghdad, sent to Reuters, that a Soviet military delegation arrived in the Iraqi capital Tuesday night.

Government sources, however, privately told reporters to expect a meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, which President Saddam had chair, Tuesday night.

Soviet officials said they expected Mr. Aziz back in Moscow in a day or two.

The government newspaper Al Jumhouriya said Tuesday: "Iraq will continue holding the olive peace branches in one hand and the rifle in the other."

Baghdad said last Friday for the first time that it would consider U.N. demands that it withdraw from Kuwait. But it linked the offer to conditions rejected by Washington and its allies.

The Soviet plan — put to Mr. Aziz by President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday — was reported to contain assurances that the allies would not punish President Saddam or dismember Iraq if he unconditionally withdraws from Kuwait.

In an unusual comment, one newspaper said that President Saddam's downfall was one of the allies' key objectives.

"The real purpose of the colonialist campaign led by the United States is not the so-called liberation of Kuwait," Al Iraq newspaper said.

"The hostile objective aims at two things — the destruction of Iraq and the elimination of its leader Saddam Hussein."

Hitting Iraq would use chemical weapons, the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadsiyah warned the allies and Israel of "horrible surprises" if they did not stop killing Iraqi civilians.

(Continued on page 5)

### 20,000 killed and 60,000 said wounded in 26 days

Combined agency dispatches

raids had inflicted \$200 billion in damage on Iraq since the war began Jan. 17.

Previous official Iraqi casualty reports have been sketchy, clearly adding up to many hundreds but not compiled in any comprehensive fashion. Only a handful of military casualties have been reported in Iraq, and allied commanders have declined to give estimates.

The Iranian report gave no indication of the statistical basis for Dr. Hammadi's figures.

The costliest single incident, in terms of civilian casualties, was between 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) Monday and dawn Tuesday, more than 30 explosions rocked the Al Rashid hotel in a modern district of the city built since President Saddam Hussein came to power in 1979.

Foreign journalists in the hotel were forced to retreat to the basement shelter and bombing was so intense that some of them said they breathed smoke from the blasts.

The state-run Tehran daily Jomhori Islami said Dr. Hammadi, during talks last weeks, according to IRNA.

It did not break down the casualties between soldiers and civilians.

The newspaper also said it was told by Mr. Hammadi that Dr. Hammadi estimated allied air

raids had inflicted \$200 billion in damage on Iraq since the war began Jan. 17.

Huge explosions and flames lit up the Baghdad sky within one kilometre of the Al Rashid Monday night. One raid lasted five hours and the walls of the 15-storey hotel heaved to the blasts.

The first light of dawn showed a vast area near the Al Rashid covered with rubble and twisted metal.

German television correspondent Christoph Maria Froehder said he saw several Cruise missile explosions in the area.

Iraq's 5th military command of the war issued Tuesday said allied planes had raided civilian targets 65 times in the previous 24 hours in an attempt to weaken civilian morale.

Among the sites struck were houses in residential areas, villages, bridges, a candle factory and a flour mill, it reported.

Some 180 other raids were aimed at military targets in the "southern operations sector" — Iraq's southern reference to Kuwait and southern Iraq.

"The criminal Americans, Zionists and their barbary raids, which are designed to cause harm to the Iraq citizens, influence its morale and undermine the lofty structure built by the revolution but their designs have failed," the communique said.

Private details issues Trump

Mr. Gorbachev underscored in an interview with the European press that Iraq's leadership will accept the unconditional

## Soviet military condemns Bush, criticises NATO

MOSCOW (R) — One of the Soviet Union's top military figures said Tuesday U.S. President George Bush's decision to go to war against Iraq showed he was devoted to old-style use of force to solve world problems.

At the same time, the Defence Ministry newspaper *Rasnaya Zvezda* said the West's NATO alliance had seized on the Gulf conflict to build up its forces in the region to an extent that could threaten the overall East-West disarmament process.

"I am sure ... that this war should never have been started,"

Marshal Viktor Kulikov, one-time commander-in-chief of the former East bloc's Warsaw pact alliance, told the newspaper *Rabochaya Tribuna*.

"Peaceful forms of pressure should have been continued and dialogue should have been pursued, which is what our diplomats and President Mikhail Gorbachev argued for. A victory after that would have been something new and desirable."

"But the language of guns and death-dealing B-52 bombers is something we have been familiar with for a long time. It has

nothing in common with the 'new thinking' which the Americans applauded warmly but did little concrete to support."

Marshal Kulikov, now a senior adviser in the Defence Ministry and a member of the Soviet parliament, added: "And in that one can say Bush has lost to Gorbachev totally. Bush has remained, as it turns out, a devoted follower of old thinking."

His criticism of the U.S. was the latest in a series from military and political figures around Mr. Gorbachev.

It appeared a day after Mr.

Gorbachev presented Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz with a peace plan which Soviet officials said they hoped could head off a bloody land offensive.

The position of the Soviet Union remains unequivocal," said Marshal Kulikov. "We are for an immediate end to this war and for a solution of the problem by political means. Gorbachev's talks with Aziz are another clear confirmation of that."

"I think it is now up to those abroad, who so fervently supported 'new thinking' in words," he added.

Krasnaya Zvezda said that despite NATO's denial it was clear that the alliance — now the only effective military bloc in Europe — had coordinated preparations for the Gulf war.

"It must also be noted that the Gulf crisis had brought the resurgence in NATO of supporters of a build-up of the bloc's military might," the Defence Ministry organ said.

"Simultaneously additional measures are being planned for the modernisation of the armed forces and the improvement of the military infrastructure of the

bloc in Southern Europe and the rendering of military aid to the countries of this region."

Krasnaya Zvezda declared: "It is also alarming that, according to reports, work on programmes for reducing force strengths and armaments in NATO committees has been suspended."

"Unfortunately, it can be stated that this reaction of NATO to the crisis in the Gulf could well put in doubt all that has been achieved in the sphere of disarmament on the continent of Europe and in the world at large."

al and food supplies since the U.N. embargo began last August. But shortages are still acute, he said.

Mr. Nouri said the U.N. embargo against Iraq has sharply curtailed imports of essential medical supplies, although U.N. officials say medicine is supposed to be exempt from the sanctions.

On Monday, the International Red Cross said it had sent 35 tons of medical supplies to Iraq through Iran since the outbreak of war Jan. 17.

"Angelo Gnaedinger, the Red Cross' representative for the Middle East and North Africa, told Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency that the volume of supplies could be increased according to need."

The Red Crescent, also distributes charitable contributions of food sent to Iraq by sympathetic organisations abroad.

Medical officials say hot weather in a few weeks would greatly increase the risk of disease.

He said Iraq will probably need doctors and nurses from foreign countries to help Iraqi medical staff in hospitals. Medical teams from Algeria, Mauritania, Jordan and Palestine already are helping in Baghdad hospitals.

"We try to deal with all these problems, but I must admit that we are in dire need of help," he said.

Mr. Nouri said his society has received some 100 tons of medic-

### Iraq says London blast shows civil war in 'evil empire'

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Tuesday the bombing of two London railway stations showed civil war was raging in the degenerate "evil empire" of Britain.

Officials at Sheikh Sabah's office in Taif, current base for the Kuwaiti government-in-exile, told the Associated Press they would check with him for confirmation of the published statement and report back.

The statement would preclude negotiations on demarcation of borders, including the two islands of Wurba and Bubiyan, or Iraqi demands for compensation of oil Kuwait allegedly pumped from the Rumailah field straddling the border.

Sheikh Sabah's statement appeared to rule out any future talk on two islands. Kuwaiti sources said his reference to previous agreement which marked Wurba and Bubiyan islands as Kuwaiti.

### Sheikh Sabah: No talks with Iraq even after pullout

ABU DHABI (AP) — Kuwait's foreign minister says his government will not negotiate with Iraq even after its forces leave Kuwait, according to a newspaper report Tuesday.

"We will not hold talks or negotiations after withdrawal, neither with the present nor with a new Iraqi leadership," Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad said in a statement published by Al Ittihad, a state-run newspaper in the United Arab Emirates.

"We have agreements with Iraq which must be implemented and Kuwait will not negotiate with Iraq after the Iraqi troop withdrawal," he said.

But the minister insisted on Iraqi reparations for destruction sustained in the invasion and occupation of his country. He gave no figures. Kuwait reportedly will need some \$60 billion to rehabilitate the country if and when liberated."

The hardline stance contradicts previous statements by leaders of the Kuwaiti government-in-exile indicating they were prepared to

### Wife of Siad Barre in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — The wife of deposed Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre has arrived in Cairo with 28 members of her family, the Somali embassy and airport sources said Tuesday. The mass-circulation Egyptian newspaper *Al Akhbar* said she was granted political asylum. Foreign Ministry officials said they had no information of such a move. Airport sources said Mrs. Siad Barre arrived on an Egyptair flight from Nairobi Monday. "Yes, they have arrived and that is the truth, no one can hide it," a Somali embassy official said. Mr. Siad Barre was overthrown last month and his whereabouts are unknown.

### Ozal wants Saddam toppled

By Alistair Lyon  
Reuter

ANKARA — Turkish leader Turgut Ozal, urging the downfall of the Iraqi government, said President Saddam Hussein's "back should be broken" to shorten the Gulf war.

Turkey had let U.S. planes bomb Iraq from its territory to help remove a "potential threat from a dangerous neighbour," Mr. Ozal told businessmen in Adana, near the southern Incirlik airbase.

"The removal of regimes so dangerous for us is to our benefit ... that is why we gave (the Americans use of) Incirlik," he said.

"To let the war end as soon as possible, the man's back should be broken, not that of his people. If the war is prolonged, his people's back will also be broken," said Mr. Ozal.

In typically blunt style, Mr. Ozal defended his Gulf crisis decisions as marking a radical foreign policy departure which would earn Turkey a place at the post-war negotiating table.

The Turkish president, who often talks by telephone with U.S. President George Bush, said he doubted whether the United States would allow the Iraqi government to survive.

"Maybe the Soviet Union wants him (President Saddam) to live on, but the U.S. president that I know will not let go so easily. After all the expense and troop deployment he will not leave without achieving a result. It is not correct politically either."

"What I mean by result is that I

don't think it will be easy for them (Iraqi leaders) to stay in power," he said.

"They will do their best to stay. They may try through the Russians or maybe the French will intervene because they have debts to collect — they have pinned their hopes on Saddam to a certain extent."

Mr. Ozal poured scorn on critics of his policy, including the multinational alliance against Iraq and risking Iraqi retaliation for U.S. raids from Incirlik.

"We know for certain that the United States will win this war ... imagine a Third World country, no matter how well armed, facing the world's giant ..."

Mr. Ozal said U.S. forces could penetrate deep into Iraq if necessary and predicted the war would be over in a month.

"What will happen in this region (after the war) is a different matter. There may be some confusion," he said.

Mr. Ozal said Turkey had helped the allies by tying down Iraqi troops across the border but did not fear an Iraqi attack.

"I had guessed that Saddam would not attack Turkey. He quickly solved problems with Iran so as not to face a front from there. Why should he open a front with Turkey?"

He also cited psychological reasons why Iraq, once part of the Ottoman empire, would not cross swords with Turkey.

"They still have in them the old fear of the Ottomans. It is not easy for them to get rid of this. If we actually fight them, this fear may go away but it will remain as long as we don't."

Mr. Ozal said all eyes had been on Turkey after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait to see if it would maintain what he called its former reticent foreign policy.

"Would we say, 'long live the snake which does not hurt me?'" he said, quoting a Turkish proverb. "We were the first to join the embargo (against Iraq). The West was surprised. We were in a way a leader to the rest of the world in this respect."

Soon after the invasion of Kuwait, Turkey cut two Iraqi oil export pipelines across its territory, halted trade with Iraq, a major trading partner and sent more troops to the southeast.

Turkey, a secular state with an overwhelmingly Muslim population, sent no troops to Saudi Arabia, but allowed U.S. bombers to use Incirlik from the second day of the war.

Iraq protested at what it called unjustified aggression, but has not retaliated militarily. This month Ankara asked Baghdad to withdraw 23 diplomats and other officials. Arab diplomats said the 23 Iraqis and 85 family members had left a week ago.

"God willing, when the peace table is set up we shall have a bigger say in proportion to the role we have played," Mr. Ozal said.

"During this war Turkey has emerged as an advanced country. Formerly we did not have an individualistic foreign policy. We have changed this radically," Mr. Ozal said.

Speaking of himself, he added: "OZAL will be courageous when this is needed to advance Turkey. All this is calculation."

NEW DELHI (R) — After days of confusion, India announced Tuesday that U.S. military transport planes would no longer refuel in the country on their way to and from the Gulf.

The government of the United States has decided to make alternative arrangements for transit halts and refuelling of their transport aircraft bound to and from the Gulf with effect from February 20th," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

He refused further comment on an issue that threatened to bring down Prime Minister Charan Singh's fragile minority government.

U.S. embassy spokesmen were not immediately available for comment, but diplomatic sources said it appeared Washington had bowed to Indian pressure.

"India is by far and away the most convenient place for refuelling

and Washington would not agree to this unless it absolutely had to," said one senior diplomat.

Mr. Shekhar himself caused much of the confusion over whether or not refuelling of the U.S. planes, which officials said carried only non-lethal supplies, would be allowed to continue.

After Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party, which keeps him in power, announced it would withdraw support if refuelling continued, Mr. Shekhar was quoted as saying Sunday he had already ordered it stopped.

On Monday, suggesting he had been misquoted, Mr. Shekhar said planes were still refuelling. Later the same day, he said he had not ordered a halt, but refuelling had stopped. But witnesses reported seeing American transports at Bombay and Madras.

Political sources said Mr. Shekhar had to halt refuelling if he hoped to retain Congress support in the next session of parliament opening Thursday during which he is likely to be challenged.

Congress, other parties and newspaper were outraged by the refuelling, arguing that it breached India's long-standing commitment to non-alignment.

The rage intensified as more and more politicians and newspapers spoke out against the massive air war waged by U.S.-led forces against Iraq and accused the allies of going beyond United Nations resolutions authorising force.

Mr. Shekhar's government has never explained why it allowed scores of U.S. transports to refuel in India since Jan. 9 at a time when domestic flights were cut back to conserve aviation fuel.

### U.S. flights to stop refuelling in India

INGENIERIE ET CONSTRUCTION

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### Iraqi Red Crescent chief appeals for food, medicine

BAGHDAD. (AP) — The chief of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society appealed Tuesday for food and medical supplies he said are urgently needed to overcome severe shortages.

Mr. Nouri told the Associated Press that the country's 18 million people could soon be threatened with epidemics of cholera and typhoid because of damage to the water and sewage system. Both diseases are spread by drinking contaminated water.

"Cases of diarrhoea already have been reported. It could be from water or it could be caused by lack of proper sanitation," he said.

Mr. Nouri said he has appealed to the Swiss-based International Committee of the Red Cross to send a special team and equipment to deal with the water problem before the health situation deteriorates further.

Medical officials say hot weather in a few weeks would greatly increase the risk of disease.

He said Iraq will probably need doctors and nurses from foreign countries to help Iraqi medical staff in hospitals. Medical teams from Algeria, Mauritania, Jordan and Palestine already are helping in Baghdad hospitals.

"We try to deal with all these problems, but I must admit that we are in dire need of help," he said.

Mr. Nouri said his society has received some 100 tons of medic-



### Israel hopes to borrow \$1b to help 'absorption'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel hopes to borrow \$1 billion, using the credit lines of Jewish groups in the United States and Canada, to help absorb thousands of Soviet immigrants, the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency announced Monday.

Mendel Kaplan, the agency's board chairman, told a news conference the government of Prime Minister John Major was in a "shaky position," unable to maintain security or solve national problems by democratic means.

The radio noted that the explosions occurred less than two weeks after the Feb. 7 Iraq mortar attack on Mr. Major's official residence at 10 Downing Street.

It said the two blasts showed that the government is unable to cover part of the cost of resettlement, rather than getting it all as a grant.

Michael Kleiner, chairman of the parliament's absorption committee, said the move by the Jewish Agency could reduce the number of Soviet Jews willing to come to Israel.

The agency's loan plan comes after the government already has cut the allowance a newly arrived family receives from 21,000 shekels (\$10,500) to 14,000 shekels (\$7,000) in the past year.

The Jewish Agency had provided



## UNICEF, WHO send medical supplies to Iraq

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organisation (WHO) Friday sent a shipment of 40,000 worth of medical supplies to help about three million people in Iraq.

The medical supplies include pediatric and other essential drugs, oral rehydration salts and medical equipment, according to UNICEF. It is the first known international mission to visit Baghdad since the outbreak of the Gulf war on Jan. 17. Jordanian officials said some truck loads of medicine and food stuffs arrived in Baghdad Monday.

In a statement announcing the mission, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said, "the spirit of such medical supplies could be within the spirit of the revisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the U.N. convention on the Rights of the Child and the declaration of the World Summit x Children of September 1990."

The seven-member team, who left via Iran with 54 tonnes of supplies "are also aiming to ascertain essential health care needs of the civilian population and to implement a programme suitable to the situation in Iraq," Niger Fisher, UNICEF's deputy regional director told the Jordan Times.

The mission, which left for Baghdad in 12 loaded trucks, consists of specialists to evaluate the drug supply, trauma in children, water and sanitation supply logistics as well as an epidemiologist. Fisher said.

The leaders of the team: Richard Reid, regional director of UNICEF, and Dr. Ali Khogali, director of the WHO, "have remained in Baghdad to hold talks with the Iraqi minister of health and to look at water and health facilities in detail," according to Fisher. UNICEF is especially concerned about the Tigris River as Iraqi citizens use it for drinking and washing their clothes at the same time. "The river is highly polluted," Fisher said.

Fisher added that while the two team leaders are in Iraq, "depend-

ing on their assessment of the situation, they will develop a broader programme."

The mission was greatly assisted by the government of Iran and by the Iranian Red Crescent Society, who cleared the shipment through the Islamic Republic and provided transport to the Iraqi border, according to Fisher, who was in Iran supervising the shipment. At the border, the mission and convoy were met by senior Iraqi officials while medical supplies were transferred to trucks of the Red Crescent Society of Iraq, he added.

UNICEF, who in November sent a small shipment of medical supplies to Iraq, "is also hoping to send another similar shipment in the coming few weeks," Fisher told the Jordan Times. "When the two leaders return from Iraq, they will report their findings and recommendations to the head offices in New York," he added.

According to UNICEF, there will be a meeting of humanitarian aid agencies to look at the results of the mission and see what programme is to be followed in Iraq.

Fisher added that while the two team leaders are in Iraq, "depend-

## The game of manipulation brought to trial in a debate

By Saeda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Was there really a genuine effort on the part of the media (Western and Arab) to achieve objectivity in their coverage of the Gulf war? How much of the truth did their reporting unveil? Or was the whole exercise simply a game for the manipulation of people's emotions, desires and fears?

Journalists representing the foreign and local media attempted, in a two-hour debate, to respond to these questions, trying to explain their points of view.

The discussion, heated at times, took place Tuesday evening at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). It began with the Arab side accusing Western journalists of not being objective and of failing to understand the Arab mind.

Ziyad Al Rifai, a professor of journalism at Yarmouk University, charged that U.S. President George Bush was censoring the media by blocking access to information. He said the American government had fears of repeating the media role during the Vietnam war, and that journalists, on the other hand, were not objecting.

Rifai criticised Western journalists for not attempting to understand Arab culture which basically differed in the sort of words they use, and how they commented and elaborated on them without really understanding the significance of these words in the Arabic language and how they may differ on other languages.

This, Rifai said, was attributed

to the language barrier and to the lack of professional interpreters in the country who could translate the significance of the words, not their transliterate meaning.

Mahmoud Al Sharif, chief editor of Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper, explained the effect of the cultural gap between Arabs and Westerners and voiced strong objection to the way Western media manipulated information. "Facts have been twisted in a very wicked way to justify an unjustifiable war," he said.

Foreign journalists have a problem of conscience," he added. "Was there really a desire to go deeper to know the reason behind the bitter, frustrated and wounded attitude?"

John Donovan, ABC's correspondent, explained that Arabs are not capable to look "eye for eye," and even if the Americans heard the argument they may not be convinced. "They may still have the same conclusion." He criticised the freedom of the press in Arab countries in comparison with Israel where journalists enjoy free access to information.

Correspondent Peter Humi said that Arabs were supporting Saddam Hussein only because they were frustrated because their problems have not been solved. "They have chosen the wrong leader, the wrong time at the very wrong moment."

However, the prolonged debate seemed to emphasise more, on the part of the Arabs, on the role of the media, accusing it of being shallow and the root cause of all problems.

"Why don't you try to know why we are angry, why are we doing all that? Have you told your readers and listeners why?" Dr. Sama Babbous, an academician, questioned. "What is the difference between one young Arab threatening to kill you and Bush sending half a million people to kill us?"

Mustafa Hamarneh, however, concluded the discussion by portraying the whole situation on both parts: "We are being patriotic on both sides while the fundamental problem remains: how can we get to the root of all problems in the region which are threatening us? We (Arabs) are partly guilty in this aspect such as portraying this war as a crusade while it is not."

## Ministry of Labour plans strict measures to cut unemployment

By Mamdooh Hawamdeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Labour has embarked on practical serious measures designed to attract non-Jordanian workers and local job seekers in a bid to solve the problem of unemployment in the country, according to Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi.

These measures, he said, were in implementation of new directives the government which was trying to find work for job seekers in all available sectors.

Addressing a meeting of the General Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, Halim Khaddam, and the union's executive committee, Dughmi said that 1991

would be the year for the big change of the existing situation, with more and more local workers taking the jobs still filled by foreigners in every sector.

Ministry teams would launch strict inspection tours to ensure that the non-Jordanians were being employed in jobs for which they had originally been imported and reports by these teams would serve as a basis for future renewal of work permits for all non-Jordanians in the country, Dughmi noted.

The minister warned that each non-Jordanian working illegally in the country would be asked to leave within two weeks from the date of being informed by the ministry's decision and the ministry would study means of effective measures to prevent such persons from coming back.

## GUVS asks U.N. to press for ceasefire

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A five member delegation from the General Union of Societies (GUVS) in headed by Fakhri Billah Tuesday presented the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative Ali Atiq a memorandum addressed to the U.N. y-General Javier Perez de

in the Gulf and to arrange for initiating dialogue to solve regional problems capitalising on Iraq's peaceful initiative.

The memorandum called for a halt in hostilities by putting an end to the sufferings of the Palestinian people, and implementing the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The memorandum said the rejection by the American President George Bush of Iraq's recent initiative for establishing peace in the region exposes the ill intentions harboured by the U.N.-led alliance against Iraq and uncovers

the genuine dimensions of the brutal aggression against Iraq.

The massing of over 500,000 troops, the buildup of the most advanced and sophisticated war machinery and the continuing air attacks on Kuwait and restoring international legitimacy, but rather to destroy Iraq's infrastructure and achievements with the ultimate goal of dominating the region, the memorandum said.

It noted that Jordan is suffering as a result of the economic blockade, political pressures and the Israeli threats.

Memorandum called on

Cellular to make every effort to arrange ceasefire

## Israel allows more Palestinians to cross to occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli authorities started allowing 400 Palestinians to cross the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges on the River Jordan on a daily basis as of Wednesday on their way back to the occupied Arab territories according to an announcement by the Public Security Department (PSD).

The announcement which said that 200 would be allowed across each of the bridges, followed long delay imposed by the Israelis on travellers to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip over the past four weeks.

Thousands of Palestinians have been stranded in Jordan after leaving Kuwait and other Gulf countries due to the ban imposed by Israel for what it said was security reasons following the imposition of a blanket curfew on the occupied territories.

The Department of Palestinian Affairs at the foreign ministry said that around 5,000 Palestinians, most of them penniless and homeless, were affected by the ban. The department said that it was holding intensive contacts with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Truce Supervi-

sion Organisation to ensure their return to their homeland.

Rabeb Amer from the Department of Palestinian Affairs said in a statement Monday that at least 30 Palestinians have lost their residency permits due to the delay, and that meant they can not go back to the occupied land.

These Palestinians have been issued these permits by the Israeli authorities upon leaving the occupied territories, and once the permits expire, their holders can not go back home, Amer said in his statement.

Representatives of the stranded Palestinians staged two protest marches in Amman during this month, one of which was held Monday, during which the protesters marched to the ICRC and United Nations offices in Amman demanding that they be allowed to return.

Normally, the Israelis allow more than 1,000 persons to cross into the West Bank every day by this time of the year, rising to more than 3,000 during the summer, but they have reduced the number in the past four weeks to less than 50 a day.

## RJ resumes flights to Jeddah, Abu Dhabi

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier, is resuming its flights to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after a break of nearly four weeks, but the insurance surcharges imposed on RJ, as well as other airlines operating in the areas would remain until the situation in the Gulf region has improved.

RJ president and chief executive officer, Husam Abu Ghazaleh, told the Jordan Times that RJ would operate a weekly flight to Abu Dhabi in the UAE as of Thursday, Feb. 21, and hopefully another flight to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia next Tuesday.

RJ has maintained services to all other stations but said that due to limited number of aircraft at its disposal it was forced in some cases to fly its passengers aboard small planes to other destinations, including New York.

The resumption of RJ flights to Saudi Arabia came close on the heels of a decision by Saudi authorities to lift a ban on Arab expatriates, including Jordanians and Palestinians working in Saudi Arabia, allowing them to return after trips abroad.

Saudi civil aviation authorities last week informed all airlines that they could fly Jordanian, Palestinian, Yemeni and Sudanese expatriates to Saudi Arabia as long as the passengers had valid return entry visas.

However, a ban on Jordanian truckers carrying produce and other goods into Saudi Arabia from Jordan remained in force. About 140,000 Jordanians used to work in Saudi Arabia before the Gulf crisis erupted in August, but many were reported to have returned to Jordan since the start of the crisis.

Abu Ghazaleh said that RJ was doing everything in its power to offer the best services to passengers and to maintain Jordan's standards.

The ministry's statement Tuesday said that foreign contractors can be considered for the tender provided that they are in consortium with local or non-Jordanian Arab contractors.

The JD 17.5 million two-lane

## Energy minister denies report on rationing of gas cylinders

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Tuesday denied a local newspaper report that rationing of gas cylinders will be applied in Jordan, and said that the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) has huge stocks of gas cylinders sufficient for the country for a long time to come.

Rabeb Amer from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Tuesday announced the discovery of a malpractice at one of the gas cylinder distribution centres in Amman.

A statement said that a team of inspectors, grouping representatives of the Ministry of Energy, the JPRC and the Civil Defence Department (CDD), while on an inspection tour of gas cylinder distribution centres found a worker siphoning gas from a full cylinder into an apparently empty one with the obvious purpose of selling them as full gas cylinders afterwards.

The paper quoted Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary-General Asem Ghoshesh as saying that the practice was only temporary and would last for a few days.

The statement said that one worker at the distribution centre located at Shmeisani was caught red-handed tampering with the cylinders in the store.

The case has now been referred to the court, and no more gas cylinders will be sold to the centre in question, said the statement which declined to give the name of the culprits.

The gas cylinder episode surfaced three weeks after the new government measures of rationing gasoline went into effect.

Since Feb. 5, all private cars, estimated to number 175,000, have been running on alternate days, depending on the odd and even numbers on their licence plates.

The measure was introduced by the government with the hope of saving gasoline. The amount of fuel being used in heating government buildings has also been reduced.

Upon introducing the new rules, the government said that the measure was expected to save up to 35 per cent of the oil consumed by Jordan at a time when the country is finding it increasingly difficult to acquire crude oil from Iraqi sources.

## Islamist parliamentarians press for support of Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamist bloc at the Lower House of Parliament Monday called on all Arab and Islamic countries not taking part in the attacks against Iraq to provide the necessary facilities for those wishing to join in the fight against the U.S.-led coalition.

In a statement the bloc issued, it called for opening the door for volunteers from such countries to fight alongside their Iraqi brothers to end off the forces of oppression and evil.

The statement said that America and its allies were launching brutal attacks against the Iraqi people, turning a deaf ear to Iraq's recent initiative in which it accepted to withdraw from Kuwait, provided that other problems in the region be addressed according to international legitimacy.

The brutal attacks on Iraq and the continuing air raids on the Iraqi people, cities and installations stand as proof of the ill-intentions and the undivided goals of the infidel anti-Iraq coalition,

the statement said.

It criticised the Arab leaders arrayed with the Western forces for adopting the same position as the aggressors and for aborting Iraq's peaceful initiative. It added that Iraq's acceptance to withdraw from Kuwait has left no excuse for those who pronounced their neutrality in the fight or those who cited Iraq's takeover of Kuwait as a reason for joining the U.S.-led alliance.

The statement called on all countries who condemned the hostilities against Iraq, particularly Iran, to take their fighting positions beside their Iraqi brothers in defence of the dignity of the Arab and Muslim nations, and their culture, history and religion.

The statement also called on Islamic movements in the countries that have allied themselves with the U.S.-led coalition to express their anger and condemnation of the destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure, and killing of Iraqi children, women and the aged.

## Ministry revives road project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Public Works and Housing

Tuesday announced a tender for the completion of the 32-kilometre Zarqa-Ghor Haditha road along the eastern coast of the Dead Sea, and said that local, Arab and foreign contractors were welcome to bid.

Nearly half of the road, which is part of the highway linking the Jordan Valley with the port of Aqaba, was completed by July 1990 when work on the project stopped due to technical problems and lack of funds.

Work on the project started by the end of 1986, but since the delay in completion was due to incompetence on the part of the original contractors, the ministry decided to carry on with the project by inviting other contractors to do the job, with the cost to be footed by the original contractors, according to the terms of original contract, a ministry statement said.

The road should run along the eastern coast of the Dead Sea to link with the existing road at Ghor Safi which runs through Wadi Araba to reach Aqaba in the south.

When completed, the road would be useful for the agricultural products of the Jordan Valley to export their products.

The road would also serve as an alternative road to the existing, but longer Amman-Aqaba highway, for tourists going to Aqaba.

When first announced, the project was expected to be completed in two years.

The project was originally funded through loans from the Arab and Sandi development funds as well as the Jordanian treasury.

The ministry's statement Tuesday said that foreign contractors can be considered for the tender provided that they are in consortium with local or non-Jordanian Arab contractors.

## Soviets

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Bessmertnykh did not directly link setting the Gulf war with the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"Let me just reiterate: as far as I'm concerned there are no negotiations," Mr. Bush said. "The goals will be set out. There will be no concessions, I'm not going to give."

Mr. Bessmertnykh told parliament Tuesday that the restoration of Kuwait as a sovereign state came to the basis of any solution to the Gulf crisis.

But he also told parliament that Moscow wanted to see Iraq as a "benevolent state with territorial integrity and playing a worthy role in the world community."

The minister's comments came just after a spokesman for President Gorbatchev declared that the ground offensive planned by the coalition "will not give anything."

Vladimir Ignatenko, in remarks suggesting that Moscow is coming out firmly against a land assault, said at a briefing: "What matters is not the absolute destruction, not breaking the backbone, of this



## Gorbachev adds new doubt to war timing

By Jim Wolf  
Reuter

**WASHINGTON** — The Gulf tides are right for an amphibious landing. The next few nights are moonless — well-suited to heighten the allied advantage over Iraq in high-tech night-fighting gear.

U.S. allied forces are said to be as ready as they ever will be to launch what could be the largest land battle since World War II.

And some experts say they could lose their edge if the offensive were delayed for a week or more because favourable weather will have eroded by then.

But Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev added a new twist on Monday that could affect whether and when the troops are ordered into action — an element that may be irksome to President George Bush.

With U.S.-led forces poised to attack Iraqi troops in Kuwait, Gorbachev gave new proposals to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to head off the looming ground war. Details were not immediately disclosed, but a Soviet spokesman said Moscow expected a "treaty without delay."

The White House quickly made clear on Monday that its hopes for forcing Iraq from Kuwait rested on war — and that it was doubtful the Soviet peace plan would avert the ground phase.

"All of our hopes at this point are on the conflict — in the air and on the ground in terms of pushing Iraq out of Kuwait," Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said in Kennebunkport, Maine, where Bush was spending a holiday weekend.

Asked whether the timing of a land offensive might be delayed to see where the Soviet plan leads, Fitzwater said: "I wouldn't make any assumptions."

The Gorbachev proposal left Bush with a series of delicate problems. One of these is avoiding an appearance of rushing into a potentially bloody battle when a diplomatic option was available.

Against this and other considerations, including concern for Soviet support, Bush must balance a host of military and strategic considerations.

One is that the U.S. and allied troops who have been streaming north towards the Saudi-Kuwaiti border in recent days, could be jarred and left off balance by the delay.

Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. defense secretary from 1975 to



Mikhail Gorbachev  
1977, said it was very difficult to maintain a state of top readiness indefinitely.

"You can lean forward in the trench only so long, and at some point you have either have to go forward or ease back somewhat," he said in an interview on Cable News Network.

Bush also may want the land battle sooner rather than later to avoid an outcome that might leave President Saddam Hussein in power, with the potential to rebuild his forces in a matter of years.

Though Saddam's ouster is not one of Bush's uppermost declared goals, the administration's strategy would not be entirely fulfilled if he managed to stay on, U.S. officials and lawmakers have acknowledged.

"I would say that there is a very strong feeling that Saddam Hussein's leadership is going to make it very, very difficult to negotiate or to see safety in the Middle East following this war," said Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Allied commanders said last Friday they were close to a key objective, destruction of all of Iraq's front-line armour. That would pave the way for allied battle plans emphasising speed, manoeuvring ability and high-technology weapons.

Other factors driving the possibility of an early offensive are the approach of the Saudi summer in March, with its scorching heat and blinding sandstorms that may interfere with high-technology weapons, and the importance of ending the conflict by the time Muslim pilgrims journey to Mecca in June.

Western diplomats have warned that the Hajj, as the journey of more than two million Muslim pilgrims is known, would be difficult for Saudi Arabia to manage if the war were still continuing.

### Aziz

(Continued from page 1)

"... The surprises will be unleashed and then it will be impossible to stop a series of horrible surprises," it said.

Iraq has previously threatened to use chemical weapons in the war. So far its missiles aimed at Israel and Saudi Arabia have been armed with conventional explosives.

Baghdad Radio said President Saddam chaired a meeting of top aides Tuesday at which the agricultural situation in the country was discussed, the radio reported. Mr. Aziz did not attend the meeting.

The radio said in a brief report that Agriculture Minister Abdul Wahab Al Sabagh was among those present. Some members of

## Jordan's image in the Western media: wrong themes that have to go

By Serene Halasa

**THE WESTERN** media habitually loves themes. First, it does everything possible to construct them. Then, it is a never-ending process to harp on them.

For one reason or another, the theme in which Jordan has been held captive by the Western media for the past six and a half months is one which portrays it as a weak kingdom, sandwiched between an enemy neighbour, Israel, and an old aggressive ally, Iraq.

Ever since the Gulf crisis erupted on Aug. 2, Jordan has been made to be part of one or more of basically two sub-themes. The first portrays Jordan as taking a pro-Iraqi stand in order to satisfy a large Palestinian majority, and the various Jordanian fundamentalist movements. The second is that the Kingdom has been pressured by the Iraqi government to take this position.

One vivid example of the way Jordan is depicted in the Western media those days is an article which appeared in last week's *Newsweek* magazine.

entitled "All unquiet on the western front, Saddam is trying to draw Jordan into the conflict." In that article, the writer, Christopher Dickey, portrays Jordan as a helpless little kingdom, and its monarch, as a leader pressured from within by certain groups and "influential fundamentalist leaders," who "fervently support Saddam."

Well, I think, I speak on behalf of a majority of Jordanians when I say that the kind of pressure Jordan is under is not from within, but an external one. This external pressure exerted on Jordan is unlike the one Dickey describes in his article as coming from Iraq, but one coming from another nation, the United States of America. Mr. Dickey might know this, although he does not say it in his article.

The U.S. he might recall, has exerted all kinds of pressure on Jordan since the onset of the crisis in order to bring the Kingdom and its monarch in the anti-Iraqi camp. Pressures ranged from political to economic, to other forms. For example, when the United Nations issued a resolution en-

forcing a trade embargo and sanctions against Iraq, Jordan indirectly fell victim to this resolution. American war ships stationed near the Tiran Straits in the Red Sea, claiming to monitor Jordan's compliance with the U.N. mandate, kept turning back, and harassing Jordan-bound vessels. This enforcement, further hampered the already weakened Jordanian economy. Although the American administration admitted more than once Jordan's compliance with the U.N. resolutions, the harassment never stopped.

Pressure by the U.S. on Jordan mounted after the start of the Gulf war on Jan. 17. Civilian cars, and oil tankers were targeted on the only civilian highway linking Jordan with Iraq, killing many Jordanian citizens. The American administration, in an effort to justify these attacks on Jordan, claimed that Jordan was violating the U.N. embargo, disregarding the fact that Jordan had made an arrangement with the U.N. sanctions committee to import oil from Iraq, until another alternative source was found. Jordan has now started to import oil from Syria, but

unfortunately the bombing of civilian targets has not ceased.

When the King "spoke with conviction about the suffering of the Iraqi people, but failed to mention either Kuwait or Saddam Hussein," the United States "responded with a review of aid to Jordan and the threat of a possible cut." This new pressure, exerted by the U.S. on the Kingdom of Jordan for its perceived pro-Iraqi stand, proves that the country trying to draw Jordan into the conflict is not Iraq, but is the United States. When the King made his speech, he made it with a deep conviction stemming from the conscience of an Arab leader who does not look kindly upon the suffering and targeting of Arab people, and the destruction of a fellow Arab country. Mr. Dickey might want to know that the only pressure that His Majesty was under is one reflecting his duty as a world leader, seeking peace, and not the destruction of this region.

"For the moment the King feels no direct pressure from Iraq to enter the fight. 'None at all' he says," writes Mr. Dickey in his article in an apparent contradiction to the

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territories, through Jordanian soil or air space, then I believe that it is time he started looking at this conflict with a broader and more in-depth look.

Mr. Dickey, might want to think that, if the nations which are today forming an alliance against a so-called Iraqi aggression, worked with the same enthusiasm to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, all this bloodshed would have been avoided, and the continuous Iraqi attacks on the Jewish state would have been totally unnecessary.

In the U.S., Americans pride themselves on having a democracy, but when another world country excises a democracy that does not see eye to eye with their kind of democracy, they automatically brandish it as either a weak democracy or an undemocratic democracy. All we Arabs demand of the foreign media in our region today, is to give a clear, factual picture of what is really going on and to place some more effort in trying to understand this part of the world and its people.

The writer is on the staff of the *Jordan Times*.

## Israel-U.S. dispute over Palestinians re-emerges

By Jack Redden  
Reuter

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** — The strains in Israeli-American relations obscured by the Gulf crisis have re-emerged, showing the two countries in basic disagreement over solving the Palestinian problem.

The issue was at the heart of their relations before Iraq invaded Kuwait last Aug. 2. It resurfaced after an attack on U.S. policy last week by Israeli Ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval, followed immediately by a stinging American rebuff.

The argument was over Washington's refusal to release \$400 million in loan guarantees until Israel provides more details of its plans for settling Israelis on occupied land. But that is only a small part of the overall dispute.

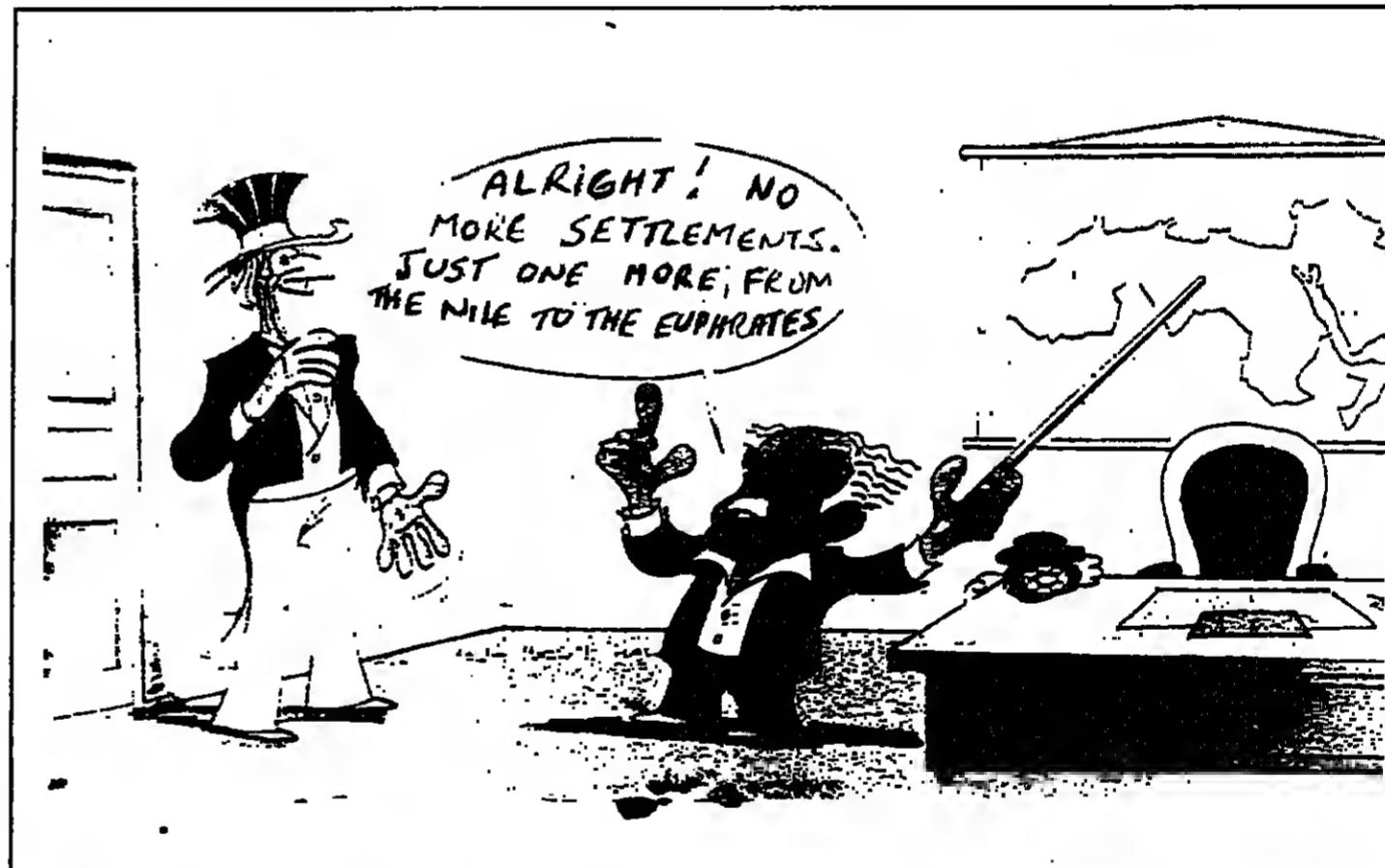
Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir last year foiled U.S. efforts to end the conflict over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip but Washington has promised to return to the issue after the Gulf war.

In anticipation, Shamir's government has been adopting hardline positions that will complicate any peace effort.

This month Shamir expanded his ruling coalition by adding the two-man Moledet Party, an openly anti-Arab party considered the most extreme in parliament.

While the United States talks about arrangements for regional security Shamir talks about new understanding of Israel's distrust of its neighbours and need to remain strong.

Last Friday, Shamir said he wanted an Israel stretching from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River — incorporating the occupied lands where 1.75



million Palestinians have been fighting for independence for the past 38 months.

"This is my personal belief and my dream," Shamir said of his position in peace talks.

Opposition members of parliament said last week the government

planned to build 12,000 new homes in the West Bank in the next three years. They said 1,000 mobile homes would be moved into the area.

It would add at least 50,000 Israelis to the West Bank and that does not include a vast

building programme in East Jerusalem, captured in the same 1967 war as the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Most countries including the United States do not recognize the annexation of East Jerusalem.

Israeli settlement in the occu-

pied territories goes to the heart of the disagreement with Washington. The latest building plans formed the backdrop for last week's diplomatic explosion.

Washington, which considers settlement in the territories an obstacle to peace, had demand-

ded details of housing plans before giving the \$400 million in loan guarantees to house Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Israeli spending in the occupied territories is hard to unravel, appearing in items such as military construction that provides roads or subsidies to farmers. A year ago government money was secretly channelled to buy Christian property in Jerusalem's old city.

The credibility of Israeli information, which Washington already appeared to doubt, was not helped by last week's revelation of housing plans not disclosed even to the Israeli public.

Israel's apparent readiness to battle Washington could not come at a worse time for the Jewish state. Last month it suggested the United States provide \$10 billion in aid to settle the million Soviet immigrants expected by 1993.

Shoval demanded Washington compensate Israel for Gulf war losses, such as the collapse of tourism and higher oil prices. He complained Israel is not received one cent of aid.

That must have touched a raw nerve in a capital risking lives and spending billions of dollars to fight Israel's most formidable Arab enemy. Washington defends Israeli cities with U.S.-manned Patriot missile and gives annual grants of \$3 billion.

Perhaps Israel was convinced the international praise it won by not retaliating for Iraq missile attacks — which could have disrupted the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf — guaranteed a strong bargaining position after the war.

But Israeli anxiety over the \$400 million in loans shows that Shamir's government understands the extent of U.S. financial leverage — and fears Washington will use it.

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## Sports

## Sampdoria aiming high

By Reuter

SAMPDORIA. The new clear leaders of the Italian soccer first division, have set their sights high for the rest of the season.

The Genoa team face a hectic few weeks of league, Italian Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup matches, but striker Roberto Mancini believes they can ride it out.

Speaking before Sampdoria's Italian Cup quarter-final second-leg tie against Torino Tuesday, Mancini said:

"You could say that being a mature side means that we ought to be able to abandon one competition and concentrate on another."

"But Sampdoria are not made like that, we want to win everything, league title, Cup Winners' Cup and Italian Cup."

Sampdoria coach Vujadin Boskov, whose team lost their first-leg 1-0, was expected to wait until shortly before kick-off before naming his team after a string of injuries in Sunday's 1-0 home win against Juventus.

Juventus hope to atom for atom in their quarter-final tie at home against Roma Wednesday. Juventus will be defending a 1-1 scoreline from the first leg.

AC Milan, Sampdoria's championship rivals, can afford the luxury of fielding a reserve side in

their quarter-final tie against Bari Wednesday. AC Milan defend a 1-0 lead at their own San Siro Stadium.

Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi will rest his Dutch trio, Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten, five other first team players plus captain Franco Baresi will also have the day off.

Buresi dislocated his shoulder in Sunday's 3-1 win over Lazio and could be out for more than two weeks, making him a doubtful starter for AC Milan's European Cup home tie against Marseille on March 6.

Napoli travel to Bologna for Wednesday's fourth quarter-final, one goal down and once again unsettled by the long-running saga surrounding captain Diego Maradona. The Argentine said this week he would soon retire from the game.

In Spain, Atletico Madrid's Portuguese star Paulo Futre was quoted Tuesday as saying he was not interested in leaving the Spanish team despite a reported offer from Juventus.

"I am very happy in Madrid and so far I am planning to finish my career abroad with Atletico," he told the AS Sports newspaper.

"Over my possible transfer, I can't say anything because this has to be resolved between (Atletico chairman) Jesus Gil and the Italians."

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## Economy

### Romania edges towards open market system with currency auction

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's currency plunged to black market rate of 200 to the dollar today as the national bank judged the country closer to a Western-style economic system by holding its first currency auction.

"It is a first bold step on the road towards achieving full and real convertibility of the leu," Romanian Bank for Foreign Trade senior dealer Catalin Moisuc said.

The Bank for Foreign Trade was among six Romanian banks authorised to take part in the auction, the first after four decades of inflated communist-style fixed exchange rates.

The National Bank, which supervised the auction, will soon be transformed into a Western-style central bank as part of the nation's market reforms.

### Bulgaria sets new leva exchange rate

SOFIA (AP) — The government established a new currency exchange rate almost twice the black-market dollar rate, news reports said Tuesday.

The decision setting an exchange of 28.25 Bulgarian leva to the dollar is expected to bring into government coffers some of the estimated \$1 billion citizens hold privately and under black-market dealing.

Bulgaria, reeling from its worst economic crisis, has suspended payments on its \$11 billion foreign debt because of a lack of hard currency reserves.

Previously, the official dollar rate for the Bulgarian currency was 7.1, but as late as Monday it was trading on the street at as much as 16.1.

The new rate is aimed at pre-

"We expect the rate to undergo a see-saw fluctuation over the next weeks, as demand for hard currency is very high and each bank keeps its offer and banks' options secret," Moisuc said.

The leu's auction rate put the currency at one-sixth its official rate of 35 levi to the dollar. New auctions will be held daily to provide an inter-bank currency rate.

Each new rate will be published alongside the official rate, which has been in effect since last November.

The Bank for Foreign Trade was joined in the auction by the Commercial Bank, the Bank for Development, the Agro Bank, Mind Bank (bank for small industries and free initiative) and Bank Coop (the bank for cooperative credits).

### Gulf war outcome may cause abrupt decline in oil profit

WASHINGTON (AP) — High crude oil prices brought windfall profits to the major American oil companies in the last three months of 1990, but the government says the profits picture may change abruptly if crude prices decline after the Gulf war.

The Energy Department has reported that 18 major oil companies earned more than \$7 billion in the fourth quarter of last year, up 77 per cent from a year earlier because of higher crude prices.

Income from oil production — both foreign and domestic — jumped even more, by about 150 per cent, but some of that increase was offset by declining profits in refining and chemical production activities, the government said.

Nevertheless, Energy Department officials said they could find no evidence of price gouging on the part of oil companies and warned that future fluctuations in oil prices could make the profit gains only temporary.

The report by the Energy Information Administration said

the oil companies' "greatest gains in profitability were directly tied" to the sharp increases in crude oil prices that occurred in the months after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

According to figures, the 11 major U.S. oil companies that reported a breakdown in earnings had profit of nearly \$5 billion from oil and gas production alone, about a 150 per cent increase over the same three months of 1989.

For major petroleum companies ... income from U.S. oil and gas production nearly tripled while their income from foreign oil and gas production more than doubled," the report said.

The report noted that while oil prices peaked at more than \$10 a 12-gallon barrel in mid-October, prices have been declining in recent months and could decline sharply once fighting stops in the Gulf war because of a current supply glut.

"If that is true, the sharp increase in oil and gas profitability ... will be treason," the agency said.

### Turkish Airlines seeks plane delivery delay

ISTANBUL (R) — State-run Turkish Airlines is seeking a delay in deliveries of an Airbus 310 and two medium-haul Boeing 737-400 planes due to a sharp decline in air traffic caused by the Gulf war, an airline official said.

The Airbus, the last of 14 aircraft ordered in 1984, was scheduled to be delivered in June.

Delivery of the first Boeing 737 by the U.S. Boeing Company was due before March and the second one in June. They are both part of a 10-aircraft lease agreed last year with deliveries extending until 1995.

The official said offers had been made both to Boeing and the Airbus companies to have scheduled deliveries delayed to a later date before the end of this year.

Turkish Airlines, which is slated for privatisation, lost more than a third of its passengers between August and December last year due to flight cancellations and costlier oil and war risk insurance.

In 1989, the airline made a profit of around \$1.5 million compared to losses of around \$5.2 million in 1988.

Calvin Kent, the agency's administrator, said no evidence of nationwide price gouging was found and that for the entire year of 1990 oil industry profits were not unusually high when considered on the basis of return on equity.

"You had the results that you would have expected with the rise in crude prices," said Kent.

Edwin Rothschild, an energy expert for Public Citizen, a Washington-based consumer group, said the findings were "a clear indication that ... unanticipated windfalls were made" by the oil companies because of the Gulf crisis.

"And consumers were taken for a ride. Their pockets were lifted," Rothschild said.

The government's findings for the last three months of 1990 were largely expected since they reflected individual earning reports disclosed separately by most of the major oil companies last month. The government report did not break down earnings by individual companies.

### U.S. firms expand overseas investments

NEW YORK (R) — American manufacturers boosted overseas investment sharply in 1990, launching 271 projects, 25 per cent more than the previous year, a business group has said.

"The 1990s clearly opened with a big bang in foreign investment," said Jim Greene, a specialist in global business trends at the Conference Board, a New York business group.

"Many of these projects, particularly new plants in Europe aimed at world markets, are betting heavily on an expanding open trade system," he said.

The business group said Europe was the leading site for the investments, attracting 67 per cent of all the projects — or a total of 167. Eastern Europe, excluding former East Germany, won 20 projects.

Britain, France and Germany accounted for the bulk of all project sites in Europe, while Bulgaria and Poland attracted U.S. manufacturing investments for the first time.

The Soviet Union won seven projects, Hungary five and Czechoslovakia four. Former East Germany also attracted four investments.

Asia accounted for only 20 per cent of all investment, but was up a strong 66 per cent from the previous year with 53 projects.

Seven projects were targeted for China, six for Singapore, while Australia won 15 projects. Canada also got 26 projects.

The group said Du Pont, General Motors Corp, CPC International Inc, Chrysler Corp and General Electric Co accounted for 37 separate investments.

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"I have bad dreams about what could happen next," said Sarah

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1991 7

### Jordanian businesses reel from Gulf war

already low on canned food, butter, pastas, sausages, candies, cereal, peas, beans and veal. They had already run out of chocolate, biscuits and cheese.

Exports, imports and other services have been hit by high insurance costs and allied inspection of ships heading for the country's only port at Aqaba on the Red Sea.

Vessels

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Iraq.

Jordanian businesses are suffering along with other sectors.

"Business has dropped by 80 per cent since the war began," said Hassan Rabbah, owner of the popular Leonardo Da Vinci restaurant.

"Those coming are mainly foreign journalists. It is really bad. We can hardly pay our expenses and costs. We're not breaking even, we're losing."

The plush Peking Chinese Restaurant, which normally has up to 100 people a night, is lucky to fill even one table now. Five Chinese cooks left after the war broke out on Jan. 17.

"Sometimes I'm surprised when people show up. But we understand ... we're not on a honeymoon, we're in the middle of a war," owner Mosalem Shammout said.

### Expatriate exodus, leaks delay Qatar's gas project

stability is achieved in the region, the sources said.

Asked about the leaks, Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) sources denied there were any at the North Field.

"The construction of platforms and 16 wells at the field are ready, but the reservoir is still not perforated," a petroleum engineer who visited the field recently said.

"Hydrogen sulphide, probably from a separate shallow field, is leaking into the well casings and sometimes bubbles up to the surface from the seabed," he said.

"They (Qataris) probably want to find where it is coming from before starting production."

Hydrogen sulphide is poisonous and flammable.

Qatar plans to utilise the gas in a number of new industrial projects such as an aluminium smelter, and petrochemical plants in joint-ventures with Western concerns.

### IRA bombs compound woes of British tourism industry

Dale, chairman of a trade association grouping tour companies, hoteliers and other related industries. I suppose we could have a plague of locusts."

The threat of terrorist attacks related to the Gulf war has scared away many tourists, forcing airlines and travel companies to cut prices drastically.

But the tourism industry fears bomb attacks by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) this week at two London railway stations will deter even more potential visitors.

"It will further damage the perception of London, in the eyes of Americans particularly," said Keith Bettom, a spokesman for the Association of British Travel Agents.

Dale, head of the British International Tour Operators Association, said the recession in Britain and the United States had

seriously reduced business travel. Traffic at London's Gatwick and Heathrow airports has fallen by more than 20 per cent and trans-Atlantic flights are less than half full.

Many U.S. and Japanese visitors, the mainstay of London's luxury tourist market, are staying at home. Their absence is felt by hotels, theatres and taxi drivers alike.

The weakness of the dollar, which is sapping American spending power abroad, is also deterring visitors.

But tourists could be even more wary if Monday's bomb explosions herald the start of a campaign of random attacks by the IRA.

"It will make some people think twice about coming here if it becomes a regular thing — bombs every week in public places in London," said Bettom.

### Budget

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

TO ALL JOURNALISTS, TV REPORTERS

BUDGET RENT A CAR INTERNATIONAL STARTS TO OPERATE ITS VEHICLES TO IRAQ WITH DRIVER, AT GUARANTEED COMPETITIVE, INCLUSIVE RATES. NEW, LARGE COMFORTABLE CARS (4 WHEEL DRIVE, STATION WAGON, SALOON CARS).

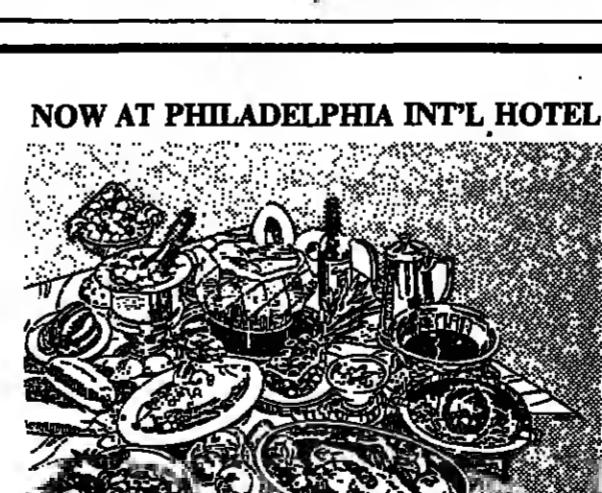
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**CONCORD**  
**MIAMI CONNECTION**  
Kim Basinger  
In  
9 1/2 WEEKS  
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 65571  
**NIJOM**  
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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## Moscow facing biggest crime wave for decades — minister

MOSCOW (R) — Interior Minister Boris Pugo said on Tuesday the Soviet Union faced the biggest crime wave since World War II, with violence, organised crime and fraud thriving on the country's economic decline.

Pugo, a hardliner appointed late last year to curb major crime and ethnic conflicts, said the number of crimes registered in 1980 rose by 13 per cent against the previous year.

"What is particularly worrying is the overall rise, reaching the highest level since the war... and the aggressiveness of armed elements," he told a news conference.

"We are talking all necessary measures but no substantial turn in the trend is yet visible."

Official statistics portrayed crime as worst in republics currently pressing for their independence from Moscow. The highest growth 43.9 per cent, was in the southern Republic of Armenia, while Estonia registered 24.4 per cent, Lithuania 18.6 per cent, and Latvia 16.9 per cent.

Ms. Dapkus said more than 300 people were injured in the attack, with Kancevicius and two other people among the most seriously hurt. The other two are now out of danger, she said.

Specific crimes are dealt with by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and others left to constituent states. "Perhaps when the future is mapped out certain crimes, in the same way, will be allotted to a central ministry or other service."

Meanwhile, a 50-year-old man was reported to have died Monday on gunshot wounds suffered in the Jan. 13 Soviet military crackdown in Lithuania, bringing the death toll from recent violence in the Baltics to 22.

Vytautas Kancevicius, a father of two, died in a hospital in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, according to the independent Belfax News Agency.

He suffered gunshot wounds in the stomach and intestines when the Lithuanian Broadcast Centre was stormed by Soviet troops last month, said Rita Dapkus, a spokeswoman for the republic's legislature, quoting the Health Ministry.

Ms. Dapkus said more than 300 people were injured in the attack, with Kancevicius and two other people among the most seriously hurt. The other two are now out of danger, she said.

Seven other people have been killed in incidents in Lithuania and Latvia since Jan. 13 — six killed in Latvia at the hands of Soviet Interior Ministry troops, and a man killed at a Soviet-manned checkpoint outside Vilnius.

In a separate development, the leader of a shadowy Georgian paramilitary group angrily denounced the republic's nationalist president Monday after Soviet forces stormed one of his bases with tanks and armoured vehicles.

Djaba Iosseliani, leader of the Mkhedrion (Horsemen) militia, said nationalist President Zviad Gamsakhurdia as behind the early morning raid and shootout in which three of his men were wounded.

In a move likely to exacerbate tensions in the restive southern republic, Iosseliani told a crowd of 2,000 on Tbilisi's main Rustaveli Avenue that he was forming a political party to combat "fascism" in Georgia.

Meeting for the first time in 28 years, ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi signed a truce on Jan. 29 urging supporters to end the violence that has killed more than 4,000 people in Natal and around Johannesburg in five years.

"But the accord has been threatened by continuing gun and spear battles. Seventeen Inkatha supporters were killed in a bus

ambush on Feb. 10 near the Natal capital, Pietermaritzburg.

On Monday senior officials of the movements led by Inkatha

and ANC intelligence chief Jacob Zuma agreed to set up a joint committee to monitor implementation of the Jan. 29

accord.

"Peacemaking mechanisms are being established in all areas as rapidly as possible," the joint statement said.

Political analysts said the inclusion in Monday's talks of the movement's rival Pietermaritzburg leader — Harry Gwala of the ANC and David Nombela of Inkatha — indicated progress in peace-making at local level.

The rebels accused Reginaldo, personnel manager of the Lapanday Development Corporation, which runs a banana plantation in Davao, of "labour despotism," blaming him for the lay-off of about 90 plantation workers since 1988.

Helicopters and fighters

bombed NPA positions

during the fighting in Abra which

broke out when rebels ambushed

police units on their way to re-

place colleagues stationed near

Lacab.

Four policemen were killed in

an ambush and 17 were wounded, police spokesman Major

Gamaliel Pia said.

Six soldiers, two policemen and

three guerrillas were killed when

NPA rebels, armed with mortars,

attacked an army outpost in Cag-

wat town, Surigao Del Sur prov-

ince, on the southern island of

Mindanao Sunday, police said.

Government troops killed 11

guerrillas in fighting Sunday and

Monday in two towns on the

central island of Leyte, the mili-

ta said.

Several hundred NPA rebels

took part in the dawn attack in

Cagwait but the estimated 80

soldiers manning the outpost held

their ground until reinforcements

came the following day, police

spokesman Colonel Jorgo Ludo-

vic said in a telephone inter-

view.

Police said 10 people were kil-

led and 16 wounded Monday

when armed men opened fire and

lobbed two grenades at a minibus

in the central province of Camar-

ines Norte.

All the victims were civilian

passengers. Police said they did

not know, the motive for the

attack.

Company executive Aurelio

Reginaldo was on his way home

in the southern city of Davao

Monday night when four gunmen

sprayed his car with bullets, killing

Reginaldo, his driver and his

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